

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-23, 25 and 27 are rejected. Claims 24 and 26 were objected to.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1, 12, 19 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph as containing new matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Comanor, US 5,860,917.

Claims rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-18, and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Staub and Seilhamer.

Claims 24 and 26 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims and all intervening claims.

In the present response, claims 24 and 26 are accordingly rewritten in independent form. The remaining claims have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 24 and 26 now pending in the application are allowable. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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